AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for at least ameliorating a symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of a host, said method comprising:

topically applying an effective amount of a topical patch NSAID formulation consisting of:

an adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing;

to a palmar dermal surface of said ~~subject~~ **host** proximal to said carpal tunnel;

to ameliorate at least one symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of said host**;**

wherein said at least one symptom is ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said topical patch NSAID formulation.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said NSAID is a nonsalicylate NSAID.

Claims 3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said host is a mammal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a mammal suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome, said method comprising:

topically applying a nonsalicylate patch NSAID formulation consisting of:

an adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing;

to a palmar dermis of said mammal for a period of time sufficient for amelioration of at least one symptom of said syndrome to occur;

to treat said mammal**;**

wherein said at least one symptom is ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said nonsalicylate patch NSAID formulation.

7. (Original) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claims 8 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein said **at least one** symptom is pain.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a human suffering from pain caused by pressure on the median nerve, said method comprising:

topically applying a nonsalicylate patch NSAID formulation consisting of:

an adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing;

_____to the palmar dermis proximal to said median nerve in a manner sufficient to at least reduce said pain;

to treat said **human;** ~~mammal~~

wherein said pain is ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said nonsalicylate patch NSAID formulation.

Claims 12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is an acetic acid.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said NSAID is diclofenac.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is indomethacin.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is ibuprofen.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said NSAID is ketoprofen.

Claims 19-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for at least ameliorating a symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of a host, said method comprising:

contacting a wrist band comprising a hydrogel patch comprising a topical NSAID formulation consisting of:

an adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing;

to a palmar dermal surface proximal to [[a]]**the** carpal tunnel of **said host** ~~a subject~~ to topically apply an effective amount of said topical NSAID formulation to said palmar dermal surface proximal to said carpal tunnel;

to ameliorate at ~~lest~~ **least** one symptom associated with pressure applied to the median nerve of the carpal tunnel of said host**;**

wherein said at least one symptom is ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said topical NSAID formulation.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 24, further comprising holding said patch in place relative to said palmar dermal surface for a period of time.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 25, wherein said period of time is at least about 30 minutes.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 24, wherein said NSAID ~~formulation~~ is at least one of: **an** acetic acid, diclofenac, indomethacin, ibuprofen, and ketoprofen.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a human suffering from pain caused by pressure on the median nerve, said method comprising:

contacting a wrist band comprising a hydrogel patch comprising a nonsalicylate NSAID formulation consisting of:

an hydrogel adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing**:**

_____to the palmar dermis proximal to said median nerve to topically apply said nonsalicylate NSAID formulation to said palmar dermis;

to treat said human**:**

wherein said pain is ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said nonsalicylate NSAID formulation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical NSAID formulation comprises an NSAID in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 5%.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said NSAID is diclofenac epolamine.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim [[31]] **30**, wherein said patch comprises 1.3 % w/w of said NSAID.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 32, wherein said backing is a polyester felt backing.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a subject for neuropathic symptoms associated with carpal tunnel syndrome, said method comprising:
topically applying an effective amount of a topical patch NSAID formulation consisting of:

an adhesive matrix;

an NSAID dissolved in said adhesive matrix; and

a backing

to a palmar dermal surface of said subject;

to treat said subject for neuropathic symptoms associated with carpal tunnel syndrome**:**

wherein said neuropathic symptoms are ameliorated for a period of 1 week or longer following application of said topical patch NSAID formulation.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one symptom ameliorated by said method is chosen from tingling, numbness and pain.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said host suffers from all of tingling, numbness and pain and said method ameliorates all of tingling, numbness and pain.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said topical NSAID formulation comprises from about 0.5 to 2% w/w of an active NSAID agent.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said at least one symptom is ameliorated for a period of ~~1 week~~ **3 weeks** or longer following application of said topical NSAID formulation.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein said at least one symptom is ameliorated for a period of several weeks or longer following application of said topical NSAID formulation.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said topical **patch** NSAID **formulation** ~~formulations~~ comprises an NSAID as the only active agent.